

BILL: F2015 – SR6
TITLE: Drop Deadline
SPONSOR: Reshma Gogineni, Senior Senator
Madeleine Raber, Senior Senator
Tiff Chang, Co-Chair of Community Council
DATE: November 19, 2015

Whereas the current deadline to drop a class is five weeks after the start of the semester,

Whereas many professors do not return significant graded coursework to their students in the first five weeks,

Whereas students may face personal challenges, family emergencies or changes in their lives at any time in the semester,

Whereas the health and wellbeing of a person should be prioritized before anything else,

Whereas the Middlebury College Trustees and the Middlebury College administration have demonstrated a commitment to tackling student academic stress,

Whereas the drop period was brought up as a topic in Community Council and the SGA collectively by a Commons Dean as what they saw as one of the most actionable items to manage stress in students' lives,

Whereas peer institution such as Princeton, Pomona, and Brown have substantially longer drop deadline periods, and other NESCAC schools like Bowdoin and Amherst specifically have extended drop deadlines for first-years and transfer students,

Whereas the SGA does not believe that this extension will negatively affect classroom experience, as students do not tend to superfluously join classes for many weeks with the intention of dropping more than five weeks in,

Whereas the practice of flexibility within a community is key to access, Universal Design for Learning, and practicing resilience,

Whereas accepting the deadline change will demonstrate that faculty and administrators trust students in making sound decisions in their academic careers,

Be it resolved that...

The SGA strongly recommends to the Faculty that the deadline to drop a class be extended by three weeks to the eighth week of the semester.

Respectfully Submitted,
Reshma Gogineni and Madeleine Raber, Senior Senators
Tiff Chang, Co-Chair of Community Council